

ETHNOBOTANY OF SOME RARE AND ENDANGERED MEDICINAL PLANTS OF SONAGHATI, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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The present paper deals with 14 genera of 10 families which have effective solution for certain diseases in human beings, practiced by the tribes of Sonaghati region, district Sonbhadra U.P. These species have become rare and endangered because of overexploitation of plants for domestic and medicinal uses.

Keywords : Endangered; Rare; Sonbhadra district.

India is one the megabiodiversity centers with two hotspots of biodiversity in Westernghats and Northeastern region. There are about 400 families in the world of flowering plants; at least 315 represented in India¹. The district Sonbhadra is also known to have rich flora of the medicinal plants and it occupies the southernmost part of Uttar Pradesh, surrounded in the north by Mirzapur and Varanasi districts of U.P., in the south by Surguja district of Chattisgarh, in south-east by Palamu district of Jharkhand. The district lies in the Vindhyan Plateau between 23°45' to 24°34' N latitude and 82°45' to 83°23'E longitude. The elevation above the mean sea level ranges between 315m to 485m². The ethnobotanical and floristic exploration have been conducted by many workers³⁻¹⁴.

Many plants are threatened and endangered largely due to habitat loss and population pressure. India stands out as one of the few countries with high human populations as well as high number of threatened species¹⁵. During the ethnobotanical survey of the district the rarity of some of the important plants were recorded on the basis of interviews of local people and visual survey due to the extensive overexploitation for domestic and medicinal uses. Apart from this some of the plant species have become endangered because of overexploitation for medicinal uses. The list of the plants along with common name, family and ailment against which it is used has been given as following:

1. *Alpina galanga* Willd.

FN: 18077, L: Makara, Hari, F: Zingiberaceae

Used in rheumatic pain, asthma, cough and cold.

2. *Acacia catechu* (Linn.f.) Willd.

FN: 18208, L: Mirchahoori, Katha, Khair, F: Fabaceae

Sore throat, ulceration, skin disease and leprosy. Also used for timber, fire fuel.

3. *Aloe barbadensis* Mill.

FN:18081, L: Dudhi, Ghritkumari, F: Liliaceae

The pulp is used to cure piles, cough, rheumatic pain, constipation and menstrual disorders. The pulp is also used as blood purifier.

4. *Adina cordifolia* (Roxb.) HK. F. ex Bradis

FN:18058, L: Dudhi, Haldu, F:Rubiaceae

Applied over swollen portion to remove pain and swelling. It is also used for fire fuel and timber.

5. *Andrographis paniculata* Nees.

FN: 18238, L: Chopan, Kalmegh, F:Acanthaceae

Used as blood purifier, in skin diseases and malaria.

6. *Asparagus racemosus* Willd.

FN:18162, L:Mirchahoori, Satawar, F: Liliaceae

Tuberous roots given to increase lactation in females. Also used in diarrhoea, dysentery, leucorrhoea, seminal debility, high blood pressure, headache and urinary troubles.

7. *Chlorophytum tuberosum* Baker

FN: 18063, L: Dudhi, Safed musli, F: Liliaceae

Used as diuretic, aphrodisiac and tonic. Also used in diarrhea, leucorrhoea and seminal disability.

8. *Curculigo orchloides* Gaertn.

FN:18965, L: Babhni, Kali musli, F: Hypoosidaceae

Used in the treatment of jaundice, piles, leucoderma, leucorrhoea and seminal debility. Roots are used as antidote to snake bite and scorpion sting. Also used in cough, dysentery and as aphrodisiac.

9. *Dioscorea bulbifera* Linn.

FN: 18970, L: Dudhi, Bilaikand, F: Dioscoreaceae

Used in cough leprosy, urinary troubles and diabetes. Also used as purgative, spermopoitic, aphrodisiac, rejuvenator and antihelminthic.

10. *Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.)R.Br.

FN:18666, L: Chopan, Gudmar, F: Asclepiadaceae

Used as antidiabetic agent and liver tonic. Also in cough and asthma.

11. *Pueraria tuberosa* (Willd.)DC.

FN: 18765, L: Chopan, Patalkumhra, F: Fabaceae

Tubers increase lactation in females. Also used in rheumatic pin and diarrhoea.

12. *Rauwolfia serpentina* (Linn.)Benth.ex. Kurz.

FN:18002, L:Myorpur, Sarpgandha, F: Apocyanaceae

Used in insomnia, high blood pressure and madness. Also used as an antidote to snakebite.

13. *Withania somnifera* (Linn.)Dunal.

FN:18999, L: Dudhi, Ashwagandha, F: Solanaceae

Root powder is used in fever, rheumatic pain, respiratory troubles and tuberculosis. Also used as aphrodisiac, nerve tonic and rejuvenator.

Acknowledgement

The author is grateful to Dr.Rajni Srivastava, Principal, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Government P.G. College, Saidabad, Allahabad, Dr. D.B. Singh, Head, Department of Botany, D.D.U. Govt. P.G. College, Saidabad, Allahabad and Dr. Satya Narain, Department of Botany, University of Allahabad. The author is also thankful to University Grant Commission, New Delhi for providing financial assistance.

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